

GARRISON LAUNCHES NEW RECYCLING PROGRAMS

“Now It’s Simple to Recycle Used Printer Cartridges and Corrugated Cardboard”

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There is real money to be gained in old corrugated cardboard and used printer cartridges. Finally, there is a convenient solution being offered to customers and organizations to recycle these two valuable commodities on Redstone. Cardboard has never been recycled by the Garrison. Recycling of used printer cartridges has operated on a small scale involving dedicated government and contractor employees and a handful of offices. Used printer cartridges were sold on pallet lots by DRMO-Huntsville, and the money from the sale went to another government organization.

Now, that’s all changed. Beginning 3 May 04, any Redstone customer, contractor, or organization may deposit their used printer cartridges and corrugated cardboard in conveniently located all-weather containers at various building locations. But to make these recycling programs successful, the Garrison must have your full support and maximum participation by using these containers. Please participate in recycling your used printer cartridges and cardboard.

The organizations on Redstone Arsenal have proven they are interested and committed to recycling. There are some shining examples. Since 1996 to date, several organizations, including AMCOM, OMMCS, RDECOM, SMDC, AIB, and others, have recycled approximately 18 tons of cartridges and hundreds of pounds of surplus office machine toner products through the Garrison. Also, 245 tons of white office ledger paper was recycled in FY03. More good news is that since January 2004, the Garrison has nearly 3,000 printer cartridges and several tons of discarded cardboard in its inventory as a result of an 18 month office building pilot collection program that predates these new programs being announced.

EnviroFactoid:

“Using remanufactured toner cartridges saves energy—3 ¼ quarts of oil are required to manufacture a new laser cartridge. In just 7 months the remanufactured cartridge industry conserves more oil than the Exxon Valdez spilled into Alaska’s Prince William Sound – International Cartridge Recycling Association”

In part because of Redstone’s proven recycling commitment, last year a Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) was established by the Garrison that now allows our commander to direct sell these commodities to the public. The revenue from the sales is returned to the Garrison for use to help fund its recycling programs. The money now directly benefits Redstone Arsenal instead of leaving the pot to another government organization.

Table 1 (on the next page) shows office buildings where blue containers and one mobile trailer have been located outside and accessible to building and neighboring building customers. A few buildings will be receiving their containers in the near future. These buildings were selected due to their extensive printer cartridge use and their high generation of discarded cardboard.

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Table 1 Container Locations on Redstone Arsenal

Building	Cardboard Container	Printer Cartridge Container	Building	Cardboard Container	Printer Cartridge Container
130	X		5417	X	
3307		X	5424	X	X
3438	X		5435		X
3445	X	X	5664		X
3635	X		5678	X	X
3775	T	T	5681	X	X
4488	X	X	5687	X	X
4500	X	X	5688	X	X
4505	X	X	6263		X
5201	X	X	7120	X	X
5220	X	X	7417	X	
5250	X	X	7612	X	X
5303	X	X	7741		X
5400	X	X	7804		X
5405	X	X	8022	X	

Notes: Buildings in bold where containers are presently placed; "T" is Mobile Trailer.

Chugach Management Services, Inc. will be making regular scheduled visits to empty the containers; and empty cardboard roller bins in Buildings 114, 3145, 3500, 3707, and 4140 on an "on-call" basis. The material is taken to Building 5669 and processed. The printer cartridge is logged, sorted, and placed in its particular bin according to manufacturer's model number; and its cardboard box is recycled. The loose cardboard is consolidated and placed in the cardboard compactor and crushed to create a 1,200 pound mill bale. The printer cartridges and cardboard bales are direct sold to paper mills and brokers. The Garrison expects it will process over 600 printer cartridges and bale 10 tons of cardboard a month.

The Garrison accepts all manufacturer cartridge models and all types of office machine toner products, used and surplus. Returning the old cartridge to the manufacturer using the supplied UPS label should not be done because the Garrison's program's goal is to have 100% participation. The used cartridge should be slipped in the plastic sleeve and packaged in the replaced cartridge manufacturer's box for deposit into the container. To be acceptable, all surplus material must have tight lids and undamaged packaging.

The printer cartridge container features a custom-designed pull down "mail box" slot. The cartridge box drops into a 22 cubic foot roll-in cart positioned under the "mail box" slot inside the container for easy removal, transportation, and processing. The slot opening is big enough to accommodate the largest printer cartridges on the market.

Only old corrugated cardboard is accepted by the Garrison. Cardboard of all sizes must be broken down from discarded boxes and pushed through the container's 8-foot slot. The cardboard falls into a custom-designed metal-mesh roll-in cart for easy removal by fork lift.

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